

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03335 142051Z

14-11

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1182

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 3335

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: FREJULI MANAGES TO GAIN CONTROL OF MISIONES LEGISLATURE

REF: BA-3272

1. THE PROBLEM IN THE MISIONES LEGISLATURE WAS SOLVED BY THE DEFECTION OF ONE UCR LEGISLATOR WHO DID NOT SHOW UP TO VOTE. THIS GAVE THE FREJULI A MARGIN OF 16 VOTES TO 15 FOR THE OPPOSITION. THE OPPOSITION HAD CALLED A MEETING ON MAY 12 IN THE THIRD ATTEMPT TO CONVENE THE LEGISLATURE AND ELECT OFFICIALS. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, ELIAS NEUMAN, A UCR DEPUTY OF THE BALBIN SECTOR, DECIDED TO RESPECT THE WISHES OF NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP AND DID NOT ATTEND. HIS ABSENCE LEFT ONLY 15 OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS AND SO THE 16 FREJULI MEMBERS, INSTEAD OF BOYCOTTING AS THEY HAD DONE IN THE PREVIOUS TWO MEETINGS, SHOWED UP AND ELECTED THEIR OWN CANDIDATES TO PRESIDENCY AND TWO VICE PRESIDENCIES OF THE BODY.

2. COMMENT. THIS SHOULD PUT AN END TO WHAT WAS A POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING SITUATION FOR THE PERONISTS NOW THAT THEY HAVE CONSOLIDATED SOME DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER THE LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE.
HILL

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